

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

August 6, 2014 |

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

- [New Resources](#)
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Gardens are flourishing in schools and community spaces around Wisconsin.

New Resources

[Check out the Wisconsin School Garden Initiative August newsletter!](#)

This issue is chock-full of information about harvest festivals and back-to-school activities.



"Inside School Food" podcast (shared by F2S partners in Oregon)

Download this fantastic free podcast on iTunes or listen online.



Farm to Childcare Curriculum

We'd like to share new Farm to Childcare Curriculum Package and complementary "Farm to Childcare: Highlights and Lessons Learned" report with you. The curriculum was developed for preschool-aged children by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) in partnership with childcare provider company New Horizon Academy (NHA) with support from the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. The curriculum and associated materials include practical, experience-tested strategies to try out new approaches in childcare settings including menu innovations, classroom activities and family engagement ideas.

Evaluation Made Easy: Learn How to Evaluate your Farm to School Activities

USDA Farm to School Grant recipient The Colorado Farm to School Task Force is partnering with Spark Policy Institute to host two series of free webinars in the coming months. The webinars will provide participants with the knowledge and tools to implement farm to school program evaluations. The five 60-minute webinars in each series will cover specific sections of Task Force's Evaluation Toolkit.

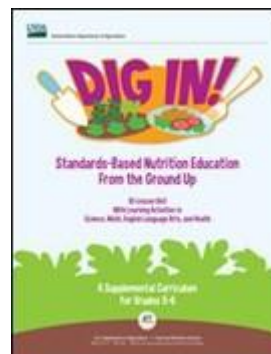
- First series: Weekly on Thursdays from September 4 to October 2, 2014 at 11 a.m. (Pacific); noon (Mountain); 1 p.m. (Central) or 2 p.m. (Eastern).
- Second series: Weekly on Thursdays from October 23 to November 20, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. (Pacific); 12:30 p.m. (Mountain); 1:30 p.m. (Central) or 2:30 p.m. (Eastern).

The Task Force is also offering two 30-minute sneak previews of the Farm to School Evaluation Toolkit.

To register, [click here](#).

[Dig In! Standards-Based Nutrition Ed from the Ground Up](#)

Dig In!, a standards-based nutrition education curriculum from USDA's Team Nutrition, helps kids, teachers and parents explore a world of possibilities in the garden and on the plate. Ten inquiry-based lessons engage fifth- and sixth-graders in growing, harvesting, tasting and learning about fruits and vegetables. Dig In! Also includes a gardening guide, booklets for parents/caregivers and six dynamic posters encouraging fruit and vegetable choices in themes that appeal to older elementary school aged children.



Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or other child nutrition program may request a free print copy of the curriculum [here](#).

General Updates

USDA Releases Request for Applications for Unprocessed Fruit and Vegetable Pilot

USDA's Under Secretary of Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kevin Concannon announced the release of a [Request for Applications](#) from states interested in participating in the Pilot Project for Procurement of Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. Under the pilot, as many as eight states across five regions will be granted flexibility in using a portion of their USDA Foods entitlement dollars to purchase locally-grown, unprocessed fruits and vegetables for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). View [more information](#) about this pilot project online.

Wisconsin is currently researching the opportunity.

Green Apple Day of Service

NFSN is partnering with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to promote the [Green Apple Day of Service](#) on September 27, and we would love to have your help spreading the word. USGBC is working to ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend a green school during this generation, and the Green Apple Day of Service event encourages people to organize or volunteer for school improvement projects on September 27. Many of these projects involve school gardens, where community volunteers come together to pull weeds, construct raised beds or install rain-collection barrels for easy watering. Promotional materials are attached, and more information can be found online at <http://www.mygreenapple.org/>.

SNA's ANC 2015 Call for Proposals is Now Open!

The School Nutrition Association is seeking proposals for presentation at its annual national conference, scheduled for July 12-15, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah. To view the call for proposal guidelines and to submit your application form, please visit www.schoolnutrition.org/CFP.

Online submissions will be accepted until September 30, 2014. If you have additional questions, you may contact SNA's Education Center at education@schoolnutrition.org.

Webinars, Conferences and Events



[“Every Garden Tells a Story”, Incredible Edible Garden Tour \(WI\)](#)

Saturday, August 9, at 9 a.m.

Come and learn how Green Bay is growing its own food. This urban agriculture movement is taking off in our community. Join us for the

third annual Incredible Edible Garden Tour hosted by New Leaf Foods.

We will highlight how people are creating a sustainable food system by growing their own food. Gardens are being planted in our neighborhoods, school yards, church lawns and at food pantries. People are turning their yards and open spaces into food oases. Come and spend a summer morning touring six inspiring edible gardens of Green Bay.

This event is free and open to the public. Learn more on the [event page](#) on Facebook or or visit our website at www.newleaffoods.org.

The garden tour will be followed by a family friendly picnic, music by folk artist Skip Jones, and a food demonstration sponsored by Urban Frog at Manna For Life garden.

NFSN and Wallace Center Webinar: [Regional Food Hubs: Strengthening Farm to School Procurement](#)

August 12, 2014 at 1 p.m. EST

Presented by the Wallace Center, this webinar will focus on regional food hubs and their abilities to bridge the gaps between local farms and school systems. The presentation will include a discussion of food hub characteristics and their roles in the farm-to-school supply chain; a closer look at how one food hub is successfully connecting small farmers to their local public school systems; and an overview of resources to help you locate food hubs in your area and strategies for connecting them with school foodservice programs.

[School Garden Symposium](#)

August 19-20

A School Garden Symposium will take place August 19 and 20 at [Treehaven](#), located between the cities of Tomahawk and Rhinelander. The first 20 registrants will get \$50 off the cost of registration thanks to a generous donation from Green and Healthy Schools. This is a great opportunity to learn how to support and sustain school gardens.

[Know Your Farmer, Know your Food, Know Your Farm Bill](#) conference

September 23 – Chicago

We have a new Farm Bill, and it holds many opportunities for farmers, food businesses and nonprofits. Join representatives from local, state and federal governments, as well as businesses and not-for-profit organizations at a one-day event convening Sept. 23rd in Chicago. Attendees will learn about the Farm Bill, USDA agencies, programs and grants in their areas.

The Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food, Know Your Farm Bill 2014 conference offers farmers, businesses, organizations, government agencies, institutions and others the unique opportunity to learn more about the resources offered through USDA.

Registration is required and the cost for the event is **\$22.09** per person, which includes lunch and refreshments. Due to limited seating, registration must be completed by COB September 17, 2014. Registration is first come, first served. **There is NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION.**

The event will take place at the [Union League Club of Chicago](#), 65 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Networking will be possible throughout the day. Please

note that the club has a business casual dress code. Information about the dress code can be found [here](#).

Space is limited, so please register right away if you'd like to attend. To register, please use this [link](#).

Farm to School Media Mentions



[Local food group seeking student art for 'Taste of Wisconsin' contest](#)

"When you think about Wisconsin's delicious foods, what images come to mind?"

Winning entries will be featured on note cards sold in the [REAP Food Group's](#) Taste of Wisconsin Holiday Sale. Proceeds will benefit Madison-area schools and REAP's Farm to School Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.